

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

- 1 15. (Amended) The microbial preparation according to claim 1 wherein in  
2 use the microbes are substantially unaffected by stresses including aeration, sheer,  
3 freeze drying, freezing, drying including high, medium and low water activity,  
4 elevated temperatures, low temperatures, pressure and pressure fluctuations, low pH,  
5 high pH, bile acids, moisture, high osmolarity, low osmolarity, high salt, or  
6 combinations thereof.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

- 1 16. (Amended) The microbial preparation according to claim 1 being a  
2 probiotic, a starter culture, a biocontrol or bioremediation product.

Please amend claim 22 as follows:

- 1 22. (Amended) The process according to claim 20 wherein the resistant  
2 starch is type RS1, RS2, RS3 or RS4.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

- 1 29. (Amended) The process according to claim 23 wherein the starch is  
2 chemically, physically, and/or enzymically treated or modified.

Please amend claim 33 as follows:

- 1 33. (Amended) The process according to claim 20 wherein the resistant  
2 starch is used in the media at a concentration of 0.01 to 10% (w/w).

Please amend claim 36 as follows:

- 1 36. (Amended) The process according to claim 20 wherein in use the  
2 microbes are unaffected by stresses including aeration, sheer, freeze drying, freezing,  
3 drying including high, medium and low water activity, elevated temperatures, low  
4 temperatures, pressure and pressure fluctuations, low pH, high pH, bile acids,  
5 moisture, high osmolarity, low osmolarity, high salt, or combinations thereof.

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[ Please amend claim 37 as follows: ]

- 1 37. (Amended) The process according to claim 20 wherein the microbial  
2 preparation is a probiotic, a starter culture, a biocontrol or bioremediation product.

Please amend claim 41 as follows:

- 1 41. (Amended) A microbial preparation having an increased survival/  
2 recovery rate in a product prepared by the process according to claim 20.

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[ Please amend claim 42 as follows: ]

- 1 42. (Amended) A product containing microbes having an increased  
2 survival/recovery rate, the product including a microbial preparation according to  
3 claim 1.

Please amend claim 49 as follows:

- a9  
1 49. (Amended) The product according to claim 42 further including  
2 resistant starch.

Please amend claim 57 as follows:

- a<sup>10</sup>
- 1 57. (Amended) The product according to claim 51 wherein the starch is
  - 2 chemically, physically, and/or enzymically treated or modified.

Please amend claim 61 as follows:

- a<sup>11</sup>
- 1 61. (Amended) The product according to claim 49 wherein the resistant
  - 2 starch is added at a concentration of 0.1 to 90% (w/w) total product.

Please amend claim 72 as follows:

- a<sup>12</sup>
- 1 72. (Amended) The use according to claim 66 wherein the starch is
  - 2 chemically, physically, and/or enzymically treated or modified.

Please add new claim 76 as follows:

- 1 76. (New) A product containing microbes having an increased
- 2 survival/recovery rate, the product including a microbial preparation according to
- 3 claim 41.